

Message Text

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10

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /065 W

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R 230755Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0209

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0216

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PINT, QA

SUBJECT : THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF PALACE COUP IN QATAR

1. FEB 22 WAS THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF ACCESSION TO RULE BY AMIR OF QATAR, SHAYKH KHALIFA BIN HAMAD AL THANI, IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT KHALIFA DEPOSED HIS COUSIN SHAYKH AHMED BIN ALI AL THANI BY MEANS OF BLOODLESS PALACE COUP ON FEB 22, 1972. SHAYKH AHMAD WAS OUT OF COUNTRY AT TIME, AND PRESENTLY LIVES IN EXILE IN DUBAI.

2. KHALIFA'S THIRD ANNIVERSARY IN POWER MARKED BY LOW-KEY OBSERVATIONS. DAY WAS NOT RPT NOT OFFICIAL HOLIDAY. LOCAL MEDIA COMMEMORATED OCCASION WITH A REVIEW OF KHALIFA'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL WELFARE FIELDS. THERE WERE ALSO QATARI-STYLE POPULAR DEMONSTRATIONS OF SUPPORT FOR AMIR IN FORM OF GATHERINGS OF SWORD DANCING BEDOUINS ON MAIN ROADS LEADING INTO DOHA.

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3. COMMENT: THE AMIR NEITHER WISHES TO OVER-PLAY HIS ANNI-

VERSARY, NOR DOES HE WISH IT TO PASS UNNOTICED. ON THE ONE
HAND THERE ARE RESIDUAL SENSITIVITIES WITHIN THANI FAMILY OVER
HIS "USURPATION". ON OTHER HAND, HOWEVER, AMIR DOES NOT WANT
TO MISS OPPORTUNITY TO REMIND QATARIS OF PROGRESS UNDER HIS
RULE AS COMPARED WITH HIS MORE EASY-GOING AND PROFILIGATE
PREDECESSOR. COROLLARY TO THIS IS APPARENT REALIZATION ON
KHALIFA'S PART THAT INCREASINGLY SOPHISTICATED QATARI BODY POLITIC
REQUIRES THAT HE RENDER PERIODIC ACCOUNTS OF HIS STEWARDSHIP.
PAGANELLI

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